CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please cancel claims 1-14 and add new claims 15-25 as shown in the following Listing of Claims.

Listing of Claims

1-14 (canceled)

15. (new) A tape storage emulation method comprising:

providing a virtual tape controller in communications with a server, a disk storage device and a tape storage device;

storing in the virtual tape controller a plurality of non-media command responses captured from the tape storage device;

receiving a non-media command in the virtual tape controller from the server;

sending to the server from the virtual tape controller a stored one of the non-media command responses corresponding to the received non-media command;

receiving a media command in the virtual tape controller from the server; and

applying the media command to a virtual tape controller managed virtual tape volume configured on the disk storage device.

16. (new) The tape storage emulation method according to claim 15 further comprising:

sending a plurality of common non-media commands from the virtual tape controller to the tape storage device during an initialization sequence; and

capturing at least a portion of the response of the tape storage device to the common non-media commands for storage in a personality logic portion of the virtual tape controller.

17. (new) The tape storage emulation method according to claim 16 further comprising:

determining that the non-media command is not one of the common non-media commands;

sending the non-media command to the tape storage device; and

capturing a response from the tape storage device to the non-media command for storage in the personality logic portion of the virtual tape controller.

18. (new) A tape storage emulator comprising:

a server interface that communicates media commands and non-media commands from a server;

a virtual tape manager in communications with the server interface so as to provide the server access to virtual tape volumes on a random access storage device in response to the media commands;

a personality logic in communications with the server interface so as to provide the server with non-media command responses to the non-media commands; and

a personality table in the personality logic that stores the non-media command responses, which are captured from a sequential access storage device in communications with the personality logic.

19. (new) The tape storage emulator according to claim 18 wherein the personality logic initializes the personality table by sending a plurality of common non-media commands to the sequential access storage device and by storing the sequential access storage device responses in the personality table.

20. (new) The tape storage emulator according to claim 19 wherein the personality logic updates the personality table when one of the non-media commands from the server is other than one of the common non-media commands.

21. (new) The tape storage emulator according to claim 20 wherein the personality table comprises:

a static data section that maintains responses to inquiry and read block limit commands; and

a dynamic data section that maintains responses to mode select and log select commands received from the server.

22. (new) A tape storage emulation method comprising:

providing a virtual tape controller having personality logic, the virtual tape controller in communications with a server and a disk storage device;

attaching a tape storage device to the virtual tape controller so as to establish communications between the virtual tape controller and the tape storage device;

sending a plurality of common non-media commands from the virtual tape controller to the tape storage device so as to obtain responses from the tape storage device;

storing the responses in the personality logic;

receiving a non-media command from the server; and

communicating to the server from the personality logic a response corresponding to the non-media command so that the virtual tape controller appears to the server as the tape storage device.

23. (new) The tape storage emulation method according to claim 22 further comprising:

receiving an additional non-media command from the server;

determining that the responses in the personality logic do not correspond to the additional non-media command;

forwarding the additional non-media command to the tape storage device so as to obtain an additional response from the tape storage; and

communicating to the server the additional response to the additional non-media command.

24. (new) The tape storage emulation method according to claim 22 further comprising:

removing the tape storage device from the virtual tape controller;

attaching a second tape storage device to the virtual tape controller;

sending the common non-media commands from the virtual tape controller to the second tape storage device so as to obtain second responses from the second tape storage device; and

storing the second responses in the personality logic so that the virtual tape controller can emulate the second tape storage device response to non-media commands.

25. (new) The tape storage emulation method according to claim 24 further comprising:

a personality table storing a static data portion of the response data and a dynamic data portion of the response data,

wherein the static data is initialized by responses of the sequential access data storage to inquiry and read block limit commands, and

wherein the dynamic data is maintained in response to mode select and log select commands received from the server.